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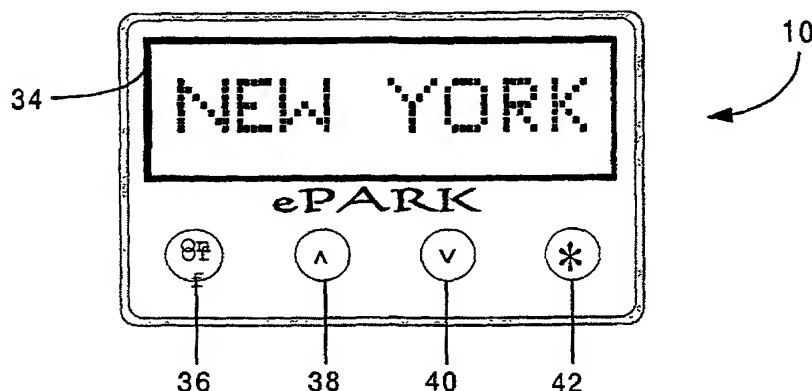
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60/149,735 19 August 1999 (19.08.1999) **US**
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(54) Title: **APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONIC PARKING SYSTEM**



(57) Abstract: An in-car parking meter (10) is provided for use in an electronic parking system. The in-car parking meter (10) electronically stores parking credits in the form of currency and dispenses these credits when activated at the rate associated with the selected zone of parking. The in-car parking meter (10) is possessed by the motorist and when active, is displayed inside the motorist's vehicle. Once the initially loaded parking credits are exhausted, additional parking credits can be reloaded into the in-car parking meter (10) by entering a unique multi-digit

random codeword into the meter (10) either through the use of its four momentary switches (36, 38, 40, 42) or through the use of an external serial data transmitter (18). A method is also provided for generating and controlling the release of random recharge codewords which are utilized to load the in-car parking meter (10) with monetary units and to update various parking parameters.